

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

আইন ও সালিশ কেন্দ্র (আসক)

ASK Annual Report 2022

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Acronyms

ASK	Ain o Salish Kendra
ASP	Assistant Superintendent of Police
CBHRPG	Community Based Human Rights Protection Group
CBHRWG	Community Based Human Rights Women's Group
CBO	Community Based Organization
CRAC,B	Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DG	Director General
DMP	Dhaka Metropolitan Police
FIR	First Information Report
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GD	General Diary
HRDF	Human Rights Defenders' Forum
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
HRFB	Human Rights Forum Bangladesh
HRLF	Human Rights Lawyers' Forum
HRV	Human Rights Violation
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
NGOAB	NGO Affairs Bureau
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
OC	Officer in Charge
PIL	Public Interest Litigation

PNGO	Partner Non-Government Organization
SP	Superintendent of Police
SR	Special Rapporteur
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STG	School Theatre Group
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls

Registration status

ASK is a registered organization under following three laws in Bangladesh:

- Societies Registration Act, 1860 since September 20, 1986
- Foreign Donations Regulation Ordinance, 1978 since June 28, 1993
- NGO Affairs Bureau Act, since 1993 ASK has a special consultative status with the United National Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) since July 31, 1998

Introduction

The year 2022 was significant for many reasons. This year the country witnessed numerous events having direct connection with the human rights situation of the country. Appointment of the new chair and members of the National Human Rights Commission and election of Bangladesh as the member to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the fifth time for the period of 2022-2025 are two such significant events. The National Human Rights Commission has new leadership, yet having a former bureaucrat as the Chair raises concerns about the Commission's ability to act neutrally as an impartial watchdog on human rights. Despite the country's worsening human rights situation, Bangladesh's membership to the UNHRC also raised concerns among the human rights defenders. It is noteworthy that the government has continuously denied allegations of human rights violations, characterizing these allegations as components of both domestic and foreign propaganda. This serves as a reminder to advocates for human rights of the politics involved in advancing these rights and the difficult path ahead.

On the other hand, 2022 also observed a number of positive developments in the legal arena, including the amendment of the Evidence Act 1872 and the introduction of the draft Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022 to the parliament. The amendment of the Evidence Act forbids the questioning of victims' morals or previous sexual behavior during cross-examination in rape cases and permits the use of digital evidence in court. However, there remained concerns, as the amendment did not absolutely prohibit the questioning victims' morals. The law still allows asking such questions if in the interests of justice, the Court deems such questions necessary. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) also observed various flaws in the draft Anti-discrimination law. ASK expressed concerned about the provisions on redress mechanisms envisaged in the draft law apprehending bureaucratic complexity and government control of the proposed district-based committees. The draft law is silent in considering the discriminatory acts as punishable offences. Besides, the concept of discrimination has been narrowly defined in the law.

This year, too, there have been frequent violations of citizens' constitutional rights to peaceful assembly, protest, and freedom of expression. ASK documented cases of human rights violations throughout the year. Women also experienced different gender-based violations including rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, unlawful punishment and degrading treatment imposed through Salish and *fatwas*. There were also concerns about the gradual price hike of essential commodities including the food items affecting the lives of the low-income people, particularly for the poor farmers, wage earners, and garment workers.

ASK, as a human rights and legal aid organization, provided the survivors of human rights violations a range of services, including legal assistance, counseling, medical treatment, and other forms of support. ASK continued its work for the protection and promotion of human rights under different interconnected strategic objectives. These include capacity building and awareness of the right holders; facilitating access to justice and legal aid to the aggrieved individuals, particularly to women, children and other disadvantaged groups, and networking and advocacy for legal and policy reform and ensuring transparency and accountability of the duty bearers to comply with the human rights obligations under national and international legal instruments.

ASK implemented its activities in 2022 under following different projects: 1) 'Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh - Phase II, (Extension)' project; 2) 'Providing Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Women' project; 3) 'MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace-building and social cohesion' project; 4) 'Awareness, Action and Advocacy for Gender-Equal and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls (AGNEE)' project; and 5) USAID's Youth are Resilient, Interconnected, Socially Cohesive, and Engaged (YouthRISE) Activity.

The organization also continued its age-old practice of holding a Daily Action meeting in morning to assess the news reports and /or other complaints received directly and take decisions on appropriate interventions in responding to various violation of legal and human rights.

This report presents ASK's achievements and obstacles in an effort to reaffirm its commitments to the advancement of human rights. This yearly report also acts as a means of being accountable to the citizens and the donors who fund ASK's initiatives. ASK takes the opportunity to express its gratitude and thankfulness to the people- men, women, and other diverse gender identity groups for trusting on ASK. Finally, it also acknowledges the dedication and commitment of the staff, the bloodlines of the organization who continued to perform their responsibilities despite many challenges and limitations.

Executive Summary

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a national legal aid and human rights organization in Bangladesh provides legal and social support to the disempowered, particularly women, working children and workers. Since its establishment in 1986, ASK seeks to create an environment for accountability and transparency of the governance mechanisms. It also works at different levels of stakeholders to make a lasting impact in its work in protecting and promoting human rights; and is working systematically at different layers of justice mechanisms in facilitating access to justice for the people of Bangladesh.

Over the last thirty-four years, ASK has evolved a more comprehensive approach to promoting, protecting, and preventing legal and human rights across the country. ASK's contribution to human rights branches out from its strategic objectives that range from capacity building, facilitating access to justice, advocacy, networking, and others. In 2022, ASK has accomplished its mission that corresponds to its strategic objectives mentioned above.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2022

ASK works with the community women and men, youths, lawyers, and journalists to promote human rights activism through capacity building and awareness raising on human rights, gender equality and about available remedial mechanisms. The main idea behind the capacity building is to enable them to demonstratively claim their rights, protest against violations of human rights, and provide support to the survivors. Capacities of these actors are enhanced particularly on gender and human rights through training, study circles, orientation, day observations, mass awareness events, creating linkage with duty bearers and rights holders among others. These community actors, being engaged in activism on gender and social justice, made emergency responses in 70 incidents of human rights violations, assisted around 700 survivors in accessing different services from police stations, hospitals, government offices and social safety benefits. They also contributed in monitoring human rights situation of their respective localities, and protesting child marriages. Community based human rights groups were also actively involved in extending access to informal justice mechanisms like Salish.

The human rights lawyers' forum attended legal camps organized at the community level and assisted 349 poor justice service seekers in accessing the Government Legal Aid Fund. School theatre groups and community-based

theatre groups contributed to disseminate messages on human rights for mass motivation and education. They addressed various issues, such as trafficking of women, child marriage, dowry, communal violence, building dam on the river, Covid-19, social discrimination, etc. in their performances.



Legal campaign with community people

includes legal advice (8,899), mediation (587), litigation, referral service, help line service, shelter, psychosocial support and rapid response on VAW. ASK assisted 155 women by recovering taka 1,34,89,203/- (One crore thirty-four lakhs eighty-nine thousand two hundred and three) for dower, *iddat* period maintenance and children maintenance purposes. ASK has extended rapid response support to 510 incidents of VAW. It assisted lodging 52 general diaries and seven first information reports (FIRs) with different police stations among others. Forty (40) survivors received medical care and temporary shelter support. Besides, ASK referred five clients to Shishu Polli Plus. In 2022, 340 persons received individual, family, couple and group counseling and psychotherapy from ASK.

AGNEE, a project on Awareness, Action and Advocacy for Gender- Equal and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls also have left impact on relevant stakeholders and target groups through 14 CSOs in 14 Upazilas in Rajshahi and Gazipur.

To pursue its advocacy, ASK monitored and compiled news clippings on human rights violations, legislative changes, current affairs and governance issues. Total 324 charts on human rights violations have been prepared and made publicly available from January to December 2022. Besides, it also published quarterly and yearly statistical reports on human rights violations. Apart from monitoring human rights situation of the country, in 2022, ASK, as well as local human rights activists and members of Human Rights Defenders Forum (HRDF), conducted fact-finding missions on total of 75 cases [42 fact findings were conducted by ASK and 33 fact findings were conducted by HRDF]. In 2022, ASK submitted 122 appeals on various incidents of human rights violations to different concerned authorities, such as Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRC, B), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Inspector General of Police, Inspector General of Prison, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP), Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Officer in Charge (OC) and other government officials.

Besides, ASK filed 14 cases, among which six were public interest litigations (PILs) and eight were criminal cases, and 98 PILs and criminal cases of various types were pending. In 2022, 18 articles were published in different national dailies. Besides, ASK issued 37 press statements on several human rights violations in country, and organized two press conferences on various issues of social and community importance like Religious Minorities, Hindu festival, etc. Two op-eds (opposite editorial) were published in the newspaper. ASK's digital advocacy reached a wider audience through its website and other social media platforms. It circulated its activities through Website, E-bulletin, Facebook, Twitter,

Besides, two projects—MAITREE and YouthRISE—helped strengthen the capacities of women and young people in the host community of Cox's Bazar as well as the Rohingya population, to encourage women's engagement in community management, and to respond to gender-based violence in their respective communities. ASK legal aid services continued to respond to various incidents of VAW in three modes: legal redress and assistance; rapid response; and shelter and psychosocial support. ASK has responded to all the complaints (18,994) received through emergency legal action; and undertook different necessary prompt measures that



Workshop on methods of collecting information

Youtube, Instagram, LinkedIn pages to achieve a greater reach of the society. ASK's website and Facebook page had 1,75,771 and 3,66,248 views respectively in 2022. ASK also launched special social media campaigns on International Human Rights Day, International Women's Day and 16 Days Activism on Violence Against Women (VAW), etc.

ASK published and disseminated 12 e-bulletins in 2022. Being the secretariat of Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), ASK's collaboration and networking with other like-minded national and international organizations and platforms continued. In 2022 ASK also commissioned two research works on root causes of child marriage; and online sexual abuse of children, and organized seven dialogues with law students of private and public university to enhance their knowledge about the UPR process. ASK also organized one national level consultation and 11 divisional consultations with the stakeholders on the progress of the implementation of the UPR recommendations. It also developed a video on the UPR and Bangladesh.

With some progress in view in general, ASK experienced different challenges both external and internal, and documented various learning. Discriminatory provisions of law, e.g. discriminatory personal laws have been experienced as a continuing challenge in ensuring justice for the aggrieved women. Besides, lack of sensitivity of the service providers including judicial officers, police, and administrative officials about gender equality and women's rights; reluctance of the victims/survivors in resorting to formal justice system; non-cooperation from the peshkar, peon; court clerk, police, and their negative attitude towards human rights lawyers were the major challenges in implementing legal aid specific activities.

Delay in getting NGOAB's approval and unavailability of fund, high staff turnover rate, and lack of adequate fund were among other operational level challenges encountered by ASK in 2022 that hampered timely implementation of the planned activities.

ASK identified a few lessons learnt during the period that could be applied in the design of future interventions and to improve the quality of their implementation. Despite internal and external criticism of the need for ASK's legal aid services, it was observed that these services were necessary because the general public, especially women who still lack the knowledge and capacity to file legal complaints, urgently require institutional legal assistance offered by ASK and other legal aid organizations. Moreover, there is also the need to substantially expand ASK's legal aid services to reach rural areas and common people nationally. Other important lessons learnt are the necessity of sensitization/ organizing sharing meetings with different justice service providing officials to promote gender responsive justice delivery, and to overcome further victimization and stigmatization of women during legal proceedings; strengthening and expanding counseling services; expanding referral services to facilitate economic independence for women; more motivational and result-based programs at grassroots level to address religious extremism and intolerance and strengthening the follow up interventions on the implementation of the national and international human rights commitments. Importantly, ASK also recognizes that job oriented training facilities are required for the staff, particularly for the staff lawyers and field workers to enable them remain updated and equipped with the required knowledge and resources to deliver quality services and accomplish their responsibilities efficiently.



As way forward, ASK aims to take initiatives to organize sensitization workshop and dialogues with the service providing officials, such as Judges, Police Officials, Administrative Officials, Magistrates, Community leaders, Public Prosecutors, Media etc. on gender equality and women's rights. The organization is also actively considering strengthening its referral services to linkage the beneficiaries with other service providing organizations for livelihood, women leadership, counseling, migrant benefits, etc., and to continue the practice of involvement of locally elected representatives in the local mediation. Furthermore, ASK also looks forward to strengthen its research works to strengthen its evidence-based advocacy and organize capacity building training for staff to enable them accomplishing their responsibilities in an efficient manner.

ASK Programmes

Capacity building and awareness raising

As a vital part of its strategy, ASK has been working with the rural community women and men, and youths through community-based and educational institution based human rights groups, such as Community Based Human Rights Women's Groups (CBHRWG), Community Based Human Rights Protection Groups (CBHRPG), School Theater Groups (STGs) and Community Based HR Theatre Groups (CBHRTG). The aim of these interventions are to promote human rights activism at the rural level through capacity building support enabling them to claim their own rights, protest human rights violations taking place in their communities and provide support to the survivors of different human rights violations. The organization also continued its work with the Human Rights Lawyer Forums (HRLFs) with a view to making a bridge between the justice mechanisms and the poor rural justice service seekers, and facilitate access to justice for them by providing free legal aid and using government legal aid fund. ASK implemented capacity building and awareness interventions in 20 Unions under five upazlias of five districts, namely Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Naogaon, Gaibandha and Kishoreganj through PNGOs.

In 2022, ASK organized two refreshers' training for different community based human rights groups and staff of PNGOs on gender equality and human rights. It also organized two training on human rights and gender in Kustia and Kishoregonj, where total 50 participants (25 men and 25 women) attended. Besides, two study circles on documentation, right to information, safe internet use, sexual arrangement, basic computer knowledge and ethnic community, and human rights were also held for the members of the community-based organizations. Further, two orientation on human rights, gender, family law, VAW and advocacy for the CBO members and PNGOs staff were organized with a view to making the participants well capacitated on different topics, such as human rights, gender relation analysis and community activism. This year ASK also organized an orientation session on gender, and HR lawyering for young lawyers.

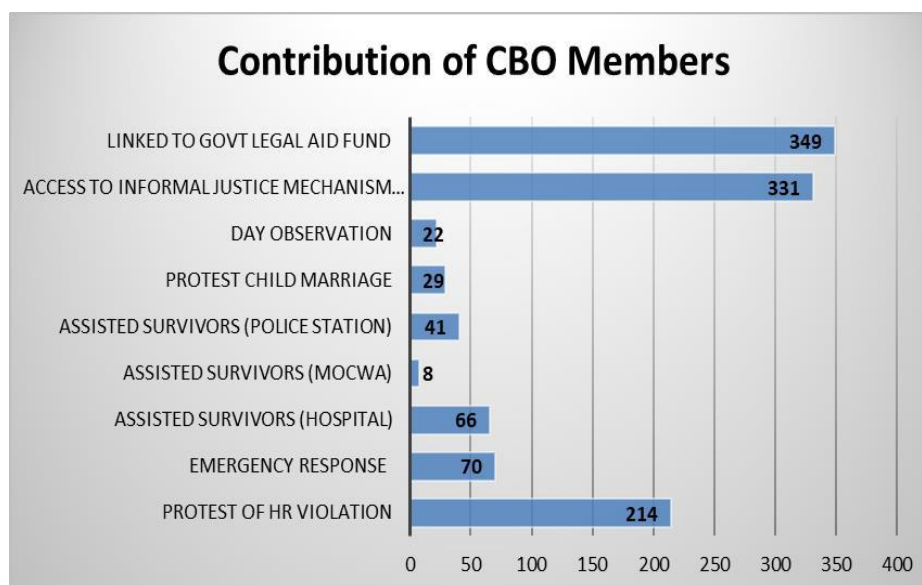


Visiting partner's office in Gaibandha

Encouragingly, the members of different CBOs were seen actively engaged in promoting and protecting human rights and women's rights. At least 214 members protested human rights violations and directly took part in emergency response in 70 incidents of human rights violations. Also, the members of different CBOs organized nine human chains [against communal, and domestic violence at local and national levels] to demand legal actions against the perpetrators. They submitted five memorandums to the local administration in protest of human rights violations, and assisted 66 survivors in accessing services at the hospitals, 41 in reaching police

station; and they protested and stopped 29 Child marriage incidents. By observation of 22 national and international days of importance, ASK and PNGOs raised mass awareness about relevant HR issues and VAW. Around 331 CBO members were actively involved in *Salish* (traditional mediation).

Figure 1: Contribution of CBO Members



Among the change makers in the community are Women Groups, HR Protection Committees and lawyers. Their skill and capacity enhancement have been rewarding in claiming human rights, and transferring skills to other activists as evident in the above graphs. Members of Community Based Women's Groups (CBWG), that represent housewives, school teachers, students, and family planning workers are now included in School Management Committees (SMC), Salish and other local committees in their communities. From among the 500 members of 25 groups, 258 are now part of different committees like UP, SMC, Community Protection Committee, Union Legal Aid committee etc. They monitor HR situations and help victims of HR violations claim rights, especially in cases of violence against women and girls, early marriage, and domestic violence.

Another specialized group is the Human Rights Lawyer Forums (HRLF) that consists of 139 lawyers in five districts who engaged with partner and community-based organizations and local authorities addressing human rights and gender-based issues and followed-up cases funded by the Government Legal Aid Fund. In 2022, this forum filed 349 cases with the Government Legal Aid Fund. In addition, they provided different non-litigation related legal services to 1168 people, 669 being women and 499 men, through 12 legal camps, in 5 working areas.

“USAID’s Youth are Resilient, Interconnected, Socially Cohesive, and Engaged (YouthRISE) Activity”

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), as a sub-grantee of the IRC has been implementing a project entitled **“USAID’s Youth are Resilient, Interconnected, Socially Cohesive, and Engaged (YouthRISE) Activity”** at 6 Union of Teknaf Upazila of Cox’s Bazar District in Bangladesh.

The main objectives of the project is to reduce use of violence and solve disputes using local justice mechanisms, and foster youth engagement and enhance trust in local justice mechanisms through capacity building of community women and youths. As the first year of the project implementation, the project organized staff orientation on the project and ASK’s mission, vision and values, and organizational policies on procurement and financial, sexual harassment and protection etc.; briefing about the project objectives and activities at union level with the UP representatives, youth groups, women's groups, freedom fighters, NGOs and other civil society organizations. A

coordination and experience-sharing meeting with relevant stakeholders including programme personnel, and representatives of the local government representatives for smooth implementations of the project activities was also organized during the reporting period.

In addition to these activities, the project also organized several orientation sessions on human rights, gender, gender-based violence, social cohesion, tolerance, etc. and on referral mechanisms to address GBV for youth activist group members from the five unions of Teknaf Upazila. It also organized an orientation titled “Orientation of women activists on GBV” for the women activists group members from the five unions of Teknaf Upazila where a total of 25 women participants attended.

The other project activities included capacity building training for the youth activist groups on informal justice processes, paralegal training and training on village court process for women members of UP to develop them as a paralegal so that they can facilitate local mediations to resolve local disputes in a neutral and gender sensitive manner.



Human rights activism through cultural activities, rally

As part of the interventions to promote human rights activism through cultural activities, ASK facilitated the development of Community Based School Theatre Groups (STG) and continued to support them in building capacity. Twenty schools in five districts now have School Theatre Groups (STG). They performed two issue-based dramas in two districts on issues of violence against children, child marriage, child labor etc. in the school. The STGs also organized five workshops on drama production, and published 20 wall magazines in the targeted schools as a part of

co-curricular activities. They have organized five online study sessions and nine-day observation programmes where STG members shared their experiences, their desired goal, and the frustration from staying at home during Covid-19 pandemic period.

25 Community Based Human Rights Theater Groups (CBHRTG) also performed nine issue-based dramas on women trafficking, dam on the river and violence against women, communal violence, child marriage, dowry, Covid-19, social discrimination, etc. Around 1,450 people watched those presentations. CBHRTGs organized four Human Rights Theater Festivals at four districts, where around 1,200 people were present. The CBHRTGs organized peaceful demonstrations of human chain against HR violence, and organized other campaign events.

To mainstream the idea, and have a greater impact, five theatre forums formed in five districts produced issue-based drama, organized human chain against HR violations and observed important days. During the reporting period, they performed nine issue-based dramas with support from ASK. This is to be mentioned that ASK also engaged in community mobilization through Human Rights Defenders Forum (HRDF) in 11 districts and provided them capacity-building support on monitoring and conducting fact-finding missions on incidents of human rights violations.

“MAITREE: Promoting women’s participation in peace-building and social cohesion”

Since 23 December 2019, ASK has been implementing the project “MAITREE: Promoting women’s participation in peace-building and social cohesion” supported by UN WOMEN. The project aims to develop women peace builders to lead social cohesion through strengthening capacities and fostering collaboration between women from the host community of Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, and the Rohingya Community.

Focus of MAITREE activities

- ✓ Encouraging women to take on leadership roles to combat patriarchal gender norms and increase women's engagement in camp and host community management;
- ✓ Establishing a network of women and providing assistance to local women's networks by identifying the services and resources needed to facilitate activism of women's networks in the Rohingya and host community;
- ✓ Enhancing community cohesion between the host community and the Rohingya population & promoting the interaction of women's organizations; and
- ✓ Removing harmful gender norms and GBV through awareness-raising, capacity development, and strengthening support of the local women rights organizations to respond to GBV at local level.

Achievements of MAITREE Project in 2022

- Formation of 19 women's groups named 'Maitree groups' (11 in the host community and 8 in the Rohingya camps) comprising 380 members, and organizing capacity building activities for them. Members of these groups are named Maitree Apa to assist the survivors of GBV and act on building/maintaining social cohesion in their respective communities.
- During the reporting period, the project organized capacity building training for the women's groups on prevention of gender-based violence, legal aid and referrals. Project also organized street drama with messages on gender-based violence, early marriage, women's leadership etc. and reached around 3,900 community people.
- It also organized paralegal training for the group leaders on mediation and family laws, who in turn facilitated mediation sessions at their own communities. Besides, seven dialogue sessions were organized with the community women and girls, women police in the camps and in the host community on peace building approaches and enhance coordination between the host communities, and the residents of the camps.



Dialogue session between Rohingya and Host Community

Facilitating access to justice

Facilitating access to justice for the poor people of the country, particularly women, children, and the marginalized people has been the foremost intervention of ASK since its establishment. ASK applies a holistic rights-based approach to run its legal aid activities, and in addition to providing free legal aid by way of legal advice, mediation and litigation support, various support services, such as shelter support and psychosocial counseling etc. are provided. Briefly, ASK legal aid service comprises mediation and rapid response, litigation, half way home, psychosocial counseling, and outreach legal aid services.

Considering that in most cases of abuse and vulnerability, victims are unaware or ignorant of their rights and entitlements, as an easy way out, ASK introduced helpline numbers and six PNGOs mobile phone numbers, total 11, for any kind of information regarding legal assistance within business hours. This way ASK reached 8,899 people, and provided legal advice on issues related to family matters, violence (rape, polygamy, safe custody, gang rape, trafficking, murder, confinement to husband's house, forced marriage, assault etc.), domestic violence matters, and property matters. Total 8,899 individuals [Women- 8639, Adolescent Girl 87, Men- 173] received legal advice, of whom total 946 underprivileged women and children registered their complaints at ASK office, clinics and outside Dhaka [633 at ASK office and clinics and 313 outside Dhaka].

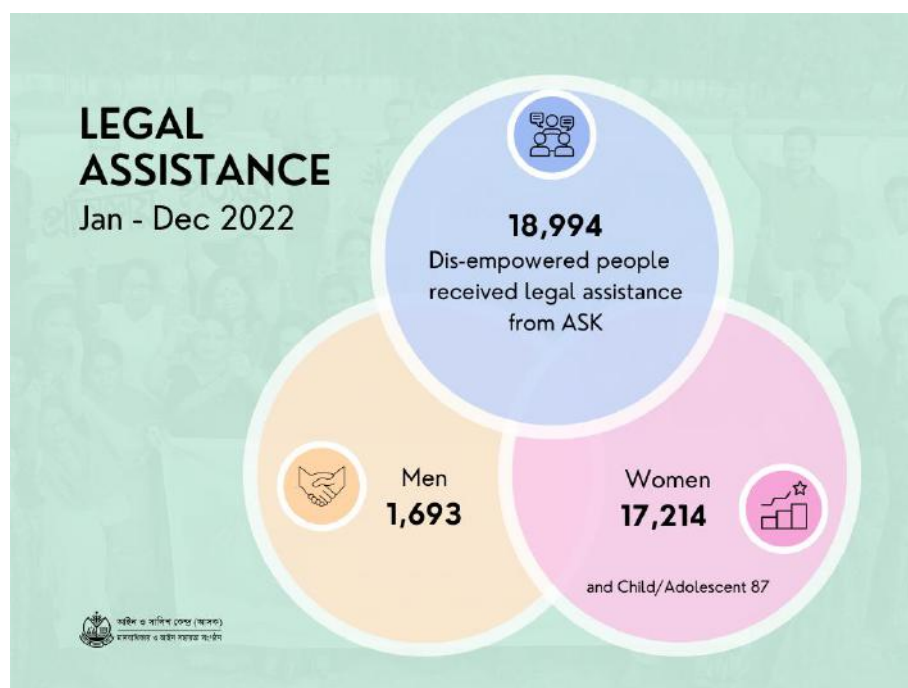
It should be noted that ASK's legal aid services are primarily available at its Lalmatia office in Dhaka as well as at its three other legal aid clinics, which are located at Rayer Bazar, Goran, and Johnson Road. ASK also works in partnership with various government agencies. Partnership with the Victim Support Center of Dhaka Metropolitan Police is the unique example of such partnership under which ASK provides legal advice, counseling and shelter services to women and children victims staying at Victim Support Centre in Dhaka. ASK also works to find out the addresses of the victims staying at different government shelter homes, provide them legal advice and assist in reuniting with their parents. Additionally, in association with local partner organizations, outreach legal aid services are offered in Barisal, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Satkhira, Tangail, and Habiganj districts.

Though ASK has own staff lawyers, outreach legal aid services are provided by the panel lawyers. ASK currently has 60 Panel Lawyers to handle court issues in its working districts of Barisal, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Satkhira, Tangail, and Habiganj. The panel lawyers in each working district as mentioned above meets once every three months to review the status of the VAW cases that are still pending as well as their role in preventing VAW and upholding women's rights in each district.

In 2022, ASK carried out its legal aid activities through two projects, namely, Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh - Phase II (Extension) project and Providing Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Women project.

ASK Legal aid services have responded to various incidents of VAW, and all the complaints received through emergency legal action and undertook prompt measures. Total **18,994** number of disempowered and poor individuals [**Women-17,214, Child/Adolescent 87, Men-1,693**] received legal assistance from ASK through legal advice (both in person, and through help lines), mediation, litigation, referral service, shelter, psychosocial support and rapid response.

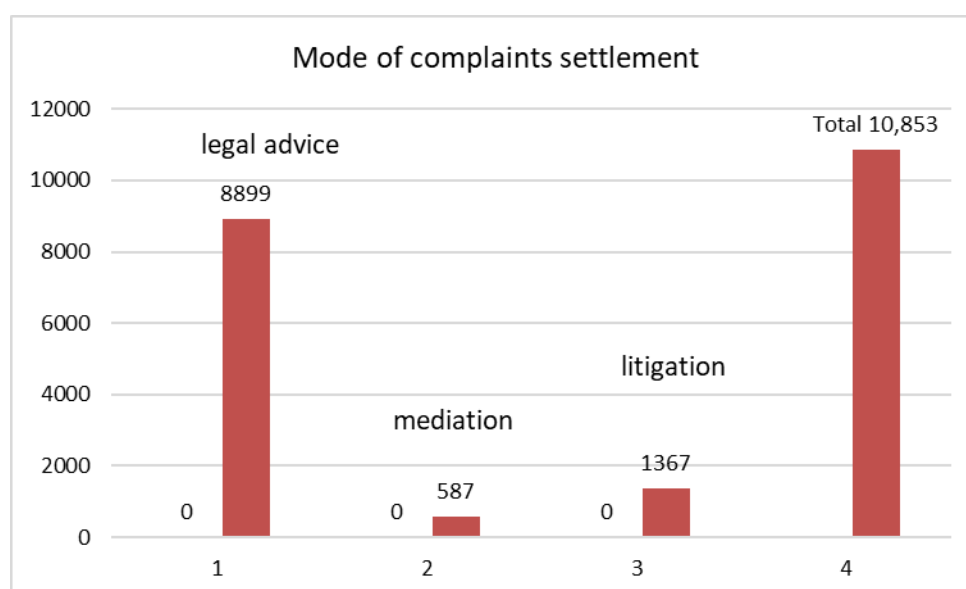
Figure 2: Legal Aid Service Recipients



It revealed that 99% of the service seekers who visited ASK had complaints about family matters, and 94% of the family matters were dealt with mediation. A total of 1,34,89,203/- (One crore thirty-four lakhs eighty-nine thousand two hundred and three) taka was recovered in favor of 155 women through mediation and litigation for dower, *iddat* period maintenance and maintenance of children, this helped them to gain economic self-reliance and build trust in the legal system. As of 2022, four hundred and seventy (470) clients were followed up and found to have utilized the money effectively.

In 2022, ASK addressed 10,853 complaints through legal advice (8,899), mediation (587) and litigation (146 new and 1221 existing cases).

Figure 3: Mode of complaints settlement



Legal assistance through mediation and litigation

Depending on the nature of the complaints of the clients, mediation or litigation is resorted to. ASK always advises clients to settle disputes through mediation unless the complaint constitutes a cognizable offense. Mediation involves less expense and time, and provides an opportunity to make decisions based on mutual discussions and maintain friendly relations between the disputing parties. During the reporting period, ASK facilitated 587 mediations, of which 635 were facilitated by ASK staff lawyers and 102 by PNGOs' paralegal staff.

However, this year 146 new cases were filed; out of which 97 cases were handled by ASK staff lawyers and 49 by panel lawyers. Besides, 1221 pending cases were moved and followed up, and 108 old cases have been disposed of during the reporting period, and judgments of the courts were in favor of ASK clients in all these cases.

Case Study: 4, 68,000/- Taka was recovered as dower and maintenance

Tania (Pseudonym), 32, and her five-year-old son visited ASK seeking legal assistance. On August 10, 2006, she married M. Ferdous Arefin. Tania said that she learned about her husband's extra-marital affairs after they got married. Her spouse completely stopped providing her with any maintenance and used to abuse her. Tania went back to her father's house with her child and divorced her husband divorce since she could no longer put up with her husband's abuse.

She filed a complaint, and ASK tried to mediate the situation. However, the mediation attempt failed due to her husband's unwillingness to cooperate. As a result, ASK filed a lawsuit (family case no. 586/2013) for dower and maintenance with the 5th Additional Assistant Judge and Family Court, Dhaka, on behalf of Tania.

On August 28, 2014, Tania received an exparte judgement awarding her 1, 75, 001 taka as maintenance and 5,000 taka per month for their child. ASK filed a Decree Execution case no-7/2015 on behalf of Tania since her husband refused to pay the money.

A warrant of arrest petition was submitted to the concerned court, and her husband was arrested, and produced before the court. The court ordered her husband to pay dower and maintenance of Tania and their child by installment. With the assistance of ASK, Tania received total 4, 68,000/- taka through the court on 22 March 2022. With the money, Tania bought a Savings certificate from the Bank.

Case Study: A successful mediation reunited Koli Begum and her Husband

Koli Begum (Pseudonym) was born with physical disability. Both of her legs are paralyzed. She studied till class nine and then she was married off. After getting married, she gave birth to two sons. After five years of marriage, her husband divorced her and she returned to her parent's home with her children. Her husband did not provide any money for their maintenance. She struggled to bear her child's education expenses.

At this point, Koli's parents again married her off to ostensibly a good and polite person who promised to take their responsibility. This man had a first wife. This second husband promised Koli that he would not maintain contact with his first family. However, after a few months, she found that her husband is in touch with his ex-wife. Koli Begum did not say anything to her husband about it. But her husband did not treat her well, rather tortured her frequently for almost nothing. On 12 February 2022, Koli went through a serious accident and severely fractured her hand. After this, her husband started treating her even worse and at some point, he confined her in a room and stopped giving her food. On 29 March 2022, her husband drove her away from his house and she went back to her parent's home.

She then learned about AVAS, an ASK partner NGO in Barisal. She then complained to that organization on April 5, 2022. Following receipt of her complaint, the AVAS program coordinator sent a legal notice to her husband asking him to resolve their family issues and requested his presence at their office for a mediation session. Koli was present at the mediation session, as well as her husband. Consequently, after a successful mediation, Koli Begum returned to her husband's house. She and her spouse are now content in their home. AVAS often follows up with Koli over the phone.

Case Study: ASK stood behind Kona, falsely accused by her husband after receiving summons for a dowry and maintenance case

Kona (pseudonym) is a 25 years old woman and her husband's name is Arif Howlader. They were blessed with a baby son. Arif demanded dowry once the baby was born and began torturing Kona mentally and physically. She endured her husband's torture in silence while imagining the future of their kid. In January 2021, Arif demanded dowry of taka 50,000/-(fifty thousand). Because of Kona's refusal to pay the dowry, she was compelled to return to her parent's house with the child.

Kona then filed a complaint with ASK for seeking her dowry and maintenance. ASK sent several notices to Arif in response to the complaint. However, the matter could not be resolved amicably due to Arif's non-cooperation. Then Kona opted to file a family case for her dowry and child maintenance. Following which a family case no-1004/2022 was filed against the Defendant Arif with the 3rd Additional Judge and Family Court, Dhaka.

Arif created pressure on Kona over phone to withdraw the case, and threatened her of filing a false case against her if the case is not withdrawn. A few days after the threats, Kona received a phone call from Khilgaon police station, informing that a case had been filed against her. After knowing about the matter, Kona along with her father visited ASK for legal assistance.

ASK lawyers collected relevant case documents. According to the case records, Arif filed a G.D. at the Khilgaon Police station on July 2, 2022, against five members of her family, including Kona accusing Kona of assaulting him and threatening him with false charges.

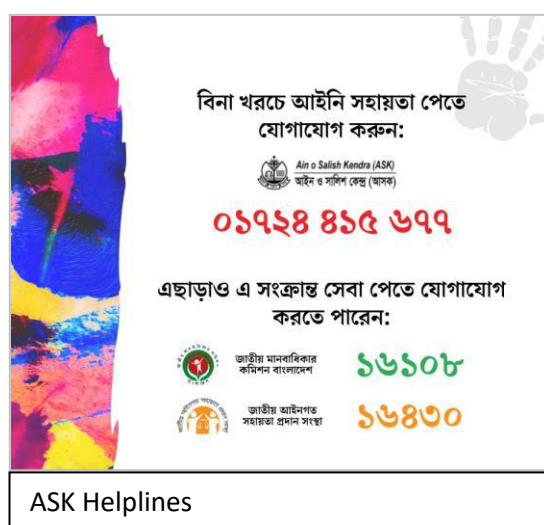
On 17 July 2022, ASK lawyers sought court order to investigate the said G.D and the court granted it. However, on September 24, 2022, a charge sheet was submitted by the investigation officer, and the court issued summons against for all the defendants. On 10 November 2022, the court granted bail to all of the defendants on a bond of 5,000/- taka after they all voluntarily surrendered. ASK will continue to provide legal assistance to Kona and her family members, who were falsely accused by her husband.

Rapid response support to survivors of violence

Rapid response mechanism is a unique aspect of ASK's legal aid service to extend immediate support to the survivors of violence. Decisions of making rapid responses are made at the daily action meeting, which is held every morning with members from various programme teams and is followed by a screening of newspapers and other sources.

In 2022, ASK extended its rapid response support to **510** incidents of VAW that includes rape, sexual harassment, murder following rape, kidnapping, unlawful Salish, fatwa, confinement by father or husband, torture for dowry, death by fire etc. It assisted lodging **52** general diaries and filing **seven**

FIRs with different police stations. The ASK rapid response team also rescued **five** lactating infants from the father's custody; released **three** persons from the government safe custody and helped them to return home, other organization and self-custody. It also communicated with law enforcing agencies and other forums on 239 HRV incidents to take necessary actions to support the affected survivors of violence and their families.



বিনা খরচে আইনি সহায়তা পেতে
যোগাযোগ করুন:

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
আইন ও সালিশ কেন্দ্র (আসক)

০১৭২৪ ৪১৫ ৬৭৭

এছাড়াও এ সংক্রান্ত সেবা পেতে যোগাযোগ
করতে পারেন:

জাতীয় মানবাধিকার
কমিশন বাংলাদেশ **১৬১০৮**

জাতীয় আইনপত্র
সহায়তা প্রদান সংস্থা **১৬৪৩০**

ASK Helplines

Shelter and psychosocial support for survivors of rights violation established

ASK has an emergency shelter home for the survivors of violence who are in the process of receiving legal aid. This enables vulnerable women and children fleeing an immediate threat of violence and gain a stable mental state to deal with the situation. During their stay at, what is called, the Halfway Home, the survivors enjoy safe shelter, healthy food, and entertainment, short or long-term medical and psychosocial support. In need, ASK linked them to relevant government and NGO supported shelter services.

Forty (40) survivors **received medical care and shelter** in 2022. ASK referred **five** clients to Shishu Polli Plus for long term shelter and followed up on a monthly basis.

Case Study: ASK assisted the teenage girl to reach the door of justice

ASK inked an MoU with the government's safe custody home for women, children, and adolescents in Vogra, Gazipur, as part of its collaborative service with the government. The ASK staff members are given permission under this MoU to locate the names and addresses of the victims from that center whose addresses cannot be located. They subsequently arrange for custodial hearings before the relevant police station or court in order to send the victims to their families.

Mahfuza Akter Jannatul is one of such victims who have been able to find her mother back and seek justice with the help of ASK. While speaking with Mahfuza, ASK staff came to know her traumatic ordeal that began when she was eight years old and went missing. She was then brought to Warez Ali's house where she was repeatedly raped by injecting narcotics. Warez beat the victim and threatened to murder her when she objected and tried to stop it. The victim was also tormented by Warez's younger brother. According to the victim, Warez and his brother coerced other women into performing sex services.

At some point, when the victim fled Warez's place, Warez reported a kidnapping case under section 7/9(1)/30 of the Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (amendment 2003), 2000 at the Araiহার police station with case number 1(11)2021. The case number assigned later by the court is Narayanganj, Nari O Shishu case no. 249/2022. Mahfuza rescued by the police in response to these court cases, who then brought her to the court. When the court learned that Mahfuza had no relatives and had been rescued by the police in response to these court cases, it issued an order to send her to Vogra, Gazipur, for safe custody. Since then, Mahfuza was there.

While staying at the center, Mahfuza expressed her desire to leave the center and return to her home. ASK employees made every effort to locate Mahfuza's residence. After locating Mahfuza's mother, the ASK lawyers submitted a petition to the Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal, Narayanganj on August 11, 2022, to release Mahfuza so that she could visit her mother. The court granted the order to release the victim in her mother's custody on August 31, 2022. Mahfuza's mother requested ASK to keep her for a few more days in order to ensure her safety, and ASK arranged her shelter at ASK's halfway home at her mother's request.

In the meantime, the court asked ASK to file a rape case against Warez and his brother Delowar on behalf of the victim. So, a case with the number 606/22 was filed. The judge ordered the Araiহার police station to take the case as an Ejahar so that the accused could be prosecuted right away.

Besides, the court took cognizance against Warez and his brother under section 17 of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (amendment 2003), 2000 for filing the false case of kidnapping, and released the accused persons who were detained earlier following the kidnapping case filed by Warez.

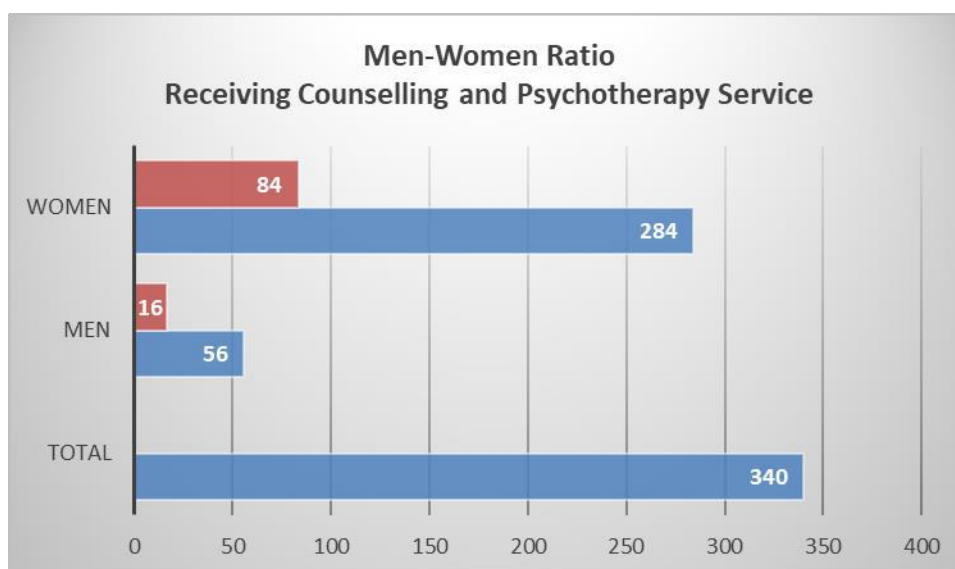
Mahfuza is now trying to become self-reliant and is taking sewing, batik and beauty parlour training with the assistance of ASK.

Being a pioneer, since 1997 ASK has been promoting counseling services in Bangladesh for psychosocial healing of survivors of violence and abuse. It worked for advocating the standardized and qualified psychosocial counseling.

Through this intervention, ASK built awareness, provided counseling and psychotherapy service, supervision and advocating for development professional standards and institutionalizing the service.

This year, **340 (284 women, 56 men) clients received individual, family, couple and group counseling and psychotherapy from ASK.** Unlike physical health, mental health support needs a different eye to see the personality pattern, understand communication style, and identify the mental trauma before rendering support to the survivor. Many clients feel a sense of relief to know that they are not alone in their journey, especially victims of violence (rape, physical assault). Counseling processes (empathetic listening, recognizing feeling) help them to accept the reality and then automatically reduce their fear and anger, and regain their self-confidence.

Figure 6: Men-Women Ratio of Receiving Counseling and Psychotherapy Service



As a part of follow up, and being with the client all the way to their legal battle, ASK organizes regular client workshops to share the status of their cases and understand any delays caused by legal requirements or court requirements, and other pertinent information. These workshops reduce psychological pressure and frustration and empower them mentally. In 2022, **six client workshops have been organized with 137 persons (women- 120, men – 17).**

Case Study: ASK's counseling enabled Rubuna to regain self-esteem

Rubuna (pseudonym) is a homemaker. She is married for six years and was living with her in-law's family. Since she got married, her husband and his family assaulted her emotionally and physically for dowry. She never got financial support and respect from them. Without the mother-in-law's permission, she could not do anything, and was treated as an outsider. To avoid such adjustment problems, she requested her husband to become separate as a family, but her husband refused this idea. As a result, she pursued legal support from ASK and was referred for counseling to focus on decision-making. She suffered moderate-level of depression.

In the counseling session, she first explored her marital life experience. She felt upset and anxious when she explored her experience. She was taught relaxation and self-parenting techniques to manage the pain and relieve

anxiety. She worked for self-acceptance and decision-making. After seven sessions, she is now at ease, able to convey her emotions to others, conscious of herself and her kids, and capable of making independent decisions. Now, she is thinking about a better future for herself and her children. She decided not to go back to her husband anymore. Now, for self-development and a better future for children, she works in an organization.

AGNEE: Awareness, Action and Advocacy for Gender- Equal and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls

Awareness, Action and Advocacy for Gender-Equal and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls (AGNEE) is a 3-year long project that aims to protect and promote the enjoyment of women's and girls' human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls by promoting sexual harassment (SH) and violence-free public spaces, workplaces and digital platforms. Funded by EU, AGNEE project is being implemented in 14 Upazilas of Rajshahi and Gazipur districts.

The main interventions of this project are:

- Enhancing capacity of CSOs to act as a focal to address SH and GBV in work & public places including digital space;
- Increasing community awareness and linkages with support services strengthens access to services; and
- Strengthening SH & GBV mechanisms at workplaces & public places to create harassment & violence free environment for women

Achievements of AGNEE project in 2022

- 14 Trainings and refresher on leadership of CSO leaders, and orientation meetings with the CSOs on community level awareness sessions with women workers/men and boys
- 01 Information sharing meeting with the journalists of Gazipur and Rajshahi on the reports on gender-based violence
- Formation of a pool of panel lawyers in Rajshahi division to facilitate legal assistance and other related support services for the survivors of violence.



Report sharing and discussion

- One bi-annual meeting between CSOs and service providing agencies to promote gender responsive referral and protection services
- Meeting with relevant stakeholders at Dhaka to devise strategies to prevent and redress sexual harassment.
- Periodic meeting with Cyber Crime Division of DMP to discuss about the ways out to prevent both online and offline sexual harassment and ensure justice for victims/survivors of sexual harassment.
- Developing a one pager leaflet containing guidelines and recommendations received from the meeting with the DMP to disseminate among the targeted stakeholders

Advocacy and networking

Advocacy and networking are the two interlocked and important strategies for ASK to strengthen accountability and responsiveness of the state institutions and ensuring the rule of law, civic space, democracy to promote and protect human rights of all, irrespective of class, caste, sex, sexual orientation, religion, language, age, marital orientation etc. Informed by the monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, ASK advocacy works comprise in court advocacy through public interest litigations, and other litigations; communications with the concerned government offices in the forms of memorandum, urgent appeal etc.; mobilizing public opinions and stimulate discussions on the pressing human rights issues and on the need for legal and policy reforms through publications; using mass media, and digital media (website, Facebooks etc.); and engaging with regional and international human rights forums, particularly the UN mechanisms.

Monitoring and documentation of human rights violations

ASK monitors and compiles news clippings on HR violations, legislative changes, current affairs and governance issues, as well as restores audiovisual materials while maintaining these in digital archives. The statistical charts on HRVs are used as evidence in writ petition, litigation, research, advocacy, publication and other purposes. In order to monitor the human rights situation, ASK compiles and tabulates statistics from different daily newspapers on human rights violations. After every three months, these statistical charts are shared with the electronic and print media. These reports are also published through ASK official website on a monthly basis.

Total 324 charts on HRV's have been prepared and made publicly available from January to December 2022. Besides, it also published quarterly and yearly statistical reports of HR violations.

Statistical report on human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2022

- ✓ **19 people** were victims of extrajudicial killings
- ✓ **479** incidents of political clashes and violence
- ✓ **2,249** cases filed under Digital Security Act
- ✓ **15** incidents of death in the custody of various law enforcement agencies
- ✓ **65** incidents of death in 21 prisons across the country.
- ✓ **5** incidents of forced disappearance/missing/abduction
- ✓ **226** journalists faced torture, harassment, threats and obstacles in different forms while conducting their professional activities
- ✓ **12** instances of vandalism and arson to temples, homes, businesses, and puja mandaps of the Hindu community

ASK maintains a library of print and audio-visual materials. The library is maintained by KOHA software. ASK staff have digital access to the library. Also, ASK maintained records of all the books disseminated, sold and distributed at any given time. The component has maintained Human Rights related videos and films which are screened to the staff of ASK periodically for their learning and information.

Women's Rights Violations in 2022	
Type of violation	Number of incidents
Rape	936
Torture, harassment and sexual harassment	247
Domestic violence and dowry	479
Torture through Salish	6
Torture of domestic workers	26
Acid throwing	13
Total	1707



Fact finding visit

Apart from monitoring human rights situation of the country, ASK also conducts fact-finding missions on allegations of different grave and systematic violations of human rights. The findings of the missions are used as evidence for ASK's advocacy and campaign, especially in public interest litigation and in advocacy for legal and policy reform. In 2022, ASK, as well as local human rights activists and members of HRDF conducted fact-finding missions on total of 75 cases[42 fact findings were conducted by ASK and 33 fact findings were conducted by HRDF].

ASK also sends urgent appeals to different concerned authorities/bodies to take necessary steps in response to the alleged violations as revealed during the fact finding. In 2022, ASK submitted 122 appeals on various HRVs to different concerned authorities, namely Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRC, B), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Inspector General of Police, Inspector General of Prison, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP), Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Officer in Charge (OC) and other government officers. During the reporting period, the respective government agencies and NHRC have acted on 20 appeals. NHRC also has followed up on 101 appeals submitted by ASK in previous years.

Based on the fact findings and documentations, ASK has prepared an annual human rights situation report and disseminated the report through a press conference. Media houses published the report with special coverage.

Case Study: ASK stood beside Swapan Kumar Biswas, acting principal of Mirzapur United Degree College

Both ASK, and local Human Rights Defenders forum (HRDF) of Narail conducted fact finding missions on the incidents of humiliation of Swapan Kumar Biswas, the acting principal of Mirzapur United Degree College of Narail followed by rumors that he had insulted religion and hurt people's religious feelings. On June 18, 2022, Swapan Kumar Biswas, the acting principal of Mirzapur United Degree College, came under fire from the populace. Assaulted with garland shoes around his neck, Swapan Kumar Biswas was subjected to mob justice.

Immediately after the fact finding missions, ASK sent urgent appeal to the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Narail asking to take immediate actions to ensure safety and security of Swapan Kumar Biswas and his family.

ASK also filed a Writ petition (Writ Petition No 8377/2022) with the High Court Division demanding judicial probe into the incident, and asking directives on the failure of the local public authorities to protect the acting principal Swapan Kumar Biswas from the public humiliation that constituted a violation of human rights. Advocate Z.I Khan, Barrister Aneek R Haque and Advocate Md Shahinuzzaman moved the hearing.

On 18 July 2022, the High Court issued a rule upon the concerned agencies of the government to explain in four weeks as to why the failure in protecting Swapan Kumar Biswas from humiliation, mob justice and other incidents in presence of police and district administration in various places shall not be declared illegal. The Chief Judicial Magistrate of Narail was also directed to hold an inquiry into the negligence of the respondents' failure to prevent the incident of the humiliation and to furnish a report to the Court within six weeks from the date. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Narail and Superintendent of Police (SP) Narail were directed to provide safety, security and other assistance to Swapan Kumar Biswas and his family.

Case Study: ASK brought the case of social exclusion of a family to the notice of UNO

Monu Mistri and his family of Borohatia Union, Lohagara, Chattogram were socially isolated as they did not follow the local leaders' instructions. ASK learned this from newspaper on 29th June 2022. Upon communication with the local journalist and victim's family, ASK was informed that Monu Mistri had asked for reasons behind the new rules of depositing huge amount of money collectively for buying land for a graveyard. Monu Mistri was not financially affluent to pay the full amount immediately. However, after paying the full amount, his name was still not enlisted and this made him question the local authorities. This raged the local leaders and they took the decision and they ostracized Monu Mistri and his family of 13 members.

Considering that this incident amounts to a clear violation of their different human rights including the right to free movement, and association, ASK sent an urgent communication to the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Lohagara, Chattogram and the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Chattogram asking to take immediate actions on this unlawful decision by the local leaders. The Senior Assistant Commissioner of Chattogram responded to ASK's urgent communication and informed that they have directed the authorities for further investigation and to take necessary action regarding the issue.

Case Study: Urgent Communication to the DG of the Health Department: Death of a Woman due to Medical Negligence

Rohima Begum, a woman, passed away because of severe medical negligence. On June 3, 2022, this news was reported in the national dailies. ASK was informed that Rohima underwent a surgery to remove a tumor at the Labaid hospital in Jamgara, Ashulia, on April 27, 2022. According to the family, the doctors allegedly severed her urinary tract during that time. She died after a month of suffering.

ASK sent an urgent communication to the Civil Surgeon of Dhaka and the Director General of the Health Department for taking immediate action on this incident of medical negligence. The Acting Director of Health Department replied ASK that they have taken the issue to the utmost concern and are working over proper inquiry and meanwhile directed the authorities to take necessary steps.

In Court Advocacy: Public Interest Litigation

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is an important advocacy tool for ASK in facilitating remedy for the violations of fundamental human rights by the state actors. In 2022, ASK filed **14 cases**, among which six were PILs and eight were different types of criminal cases. All the PIL cases were positively received by the High Court and passed the rules and orders in favor of ASK/aggrieved people. The media took these rules and orders with high priorities and published accordingly. Now 98 PIL and criminal cases of different types are pending

Publication and Communication

This component plays an important role in ASK's advocacy efforts to mobilize public opinion and promote human rights activism on contemporary national and international human rights issues. All such ASK publications are used as important resource materials for the people in general and members of the legal profession, policy makers, scholars and human rights organizations.



In 2022, ASK published four quarterly bulletins and disseminated the copy among the lawyer, students, government officials, NGO's CSO's and different other professionals. In addition, soft copy of these issues are available in ASK website. This component also organized two meetings with the bulletin readers and contributors, and facilitated publishing write-ups on human rights issues in different newspapers. In 2022, 18 articles were published in different national dailies.

Media Advocacy

ASK uses different media channels including mainstream news media, digital media for advocacy and campaigns on human rights. It has different styles of media advocacy, which are furnished below.

Press Statements

In 2022, total 37 press statements were released on different human rights issues, including extrajudicial killings, torture and custodial death, violence against women, religious minorities, political violence, freedom of expression, press, and assembly, illegal arrests, and violation of right to privacy.

Press Conferences

ASK also organized two press conferences to persuade the government and concerned authorities to take measures against human rights abuses and placed some specific demands. ASK, as the Secretariat of HRFB organized a press conference on 'Demanding the Protection of Religious Minorities during the Upcoming Durga Puja' on 28 August at National Press Club. The HRFB urged the government to remain vigilant so that the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations don't get spoiled like 2021. The forum also demanded that individuals

responsible for acts of violence against minorities be promptly prosecuted. Additionally, they demanded the dismissal of the relevant officials if they failed to safeguard the minorities.



Press conference arranged as the secretariat of HRFB

ASK held another press conference, titled 'Human Rights Situation of Bangladesh in 2022: ASK's Observation' on 31 December 2022, at ASK office. The annual statistics of the human rights violations documented by ASK was shared in the conference. ASK expressed concern over the human rights situation in the country, and placed a set of demands to improve the overall rights situation. It also urged to establish an independent commission to investigate the incidents of extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, custodial torture and other forms of human rights abuses.

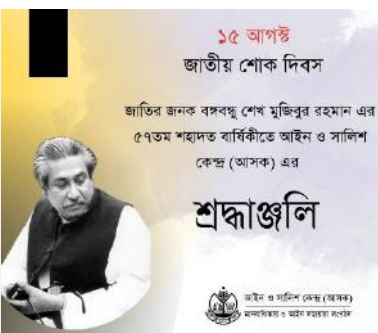
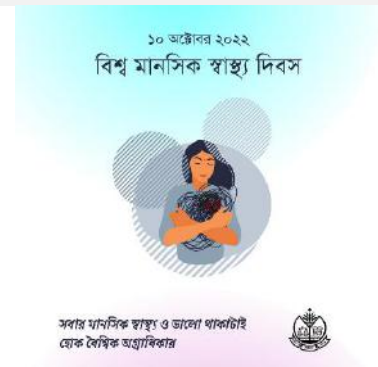
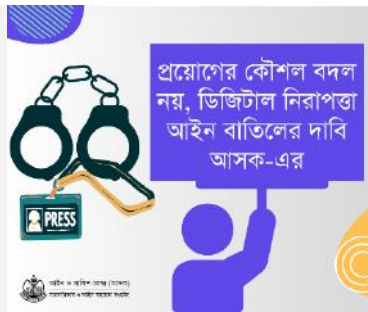


Annual press conference arranged by ASK

Besides, two op-eds were published in 2022 highlighting the importance of transparency in recruitment process of NHRC and the implementation progress of UPR recommendations.

Digital Advocacy

ASK's digital advocacy reaches a wider audience through its website and other social media platforms. It circulated its activities through *Website*, *E-bulletin*, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Youtube*, *Instagram*, *LinkedIn* pages to achieve a greater reach of the society. It also continued creating and developing digital content to raise mass awareness and mobilize public opinion on different human rights issues. ASK also launched special social media campaigns on International Human Rights Day, International Women's Day, 16 Days Activism on Violence against Women (VAW), etc. ASK published and disseminated 12 e-bulletins in 2022. ASK website and Facebook had a reach of 1,75,771 and 3,66,248 views respectively in 2022.

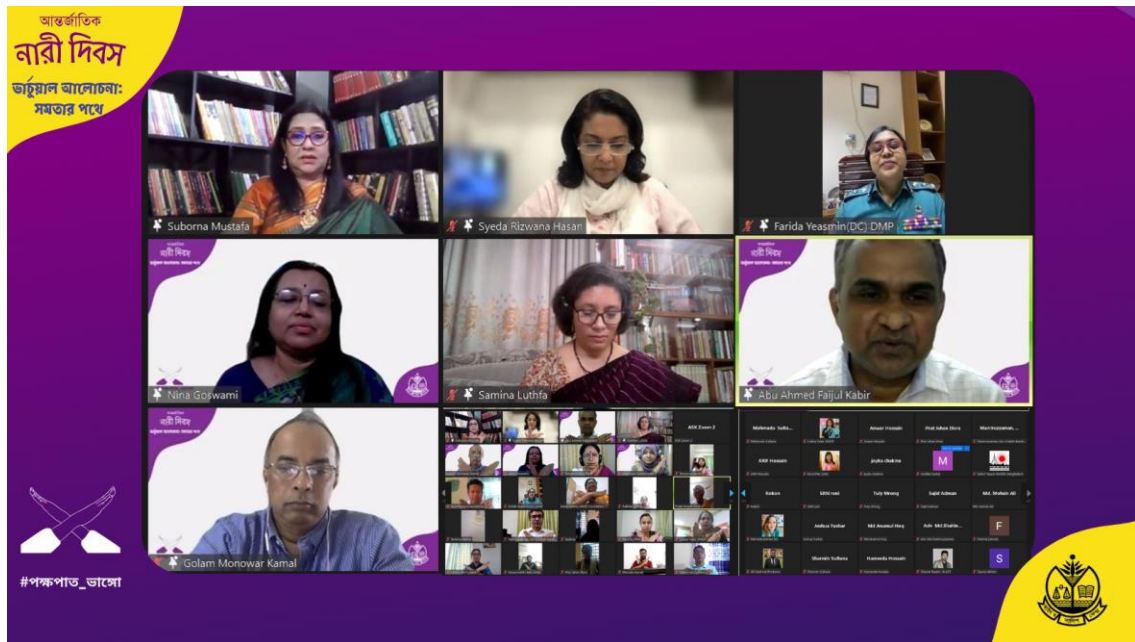


Social media campaign materials

In 2022, on the occasion of International Women's Day, ASK organized an online discussion titled 'Road to Equality'. ASK also implemented several online and offline activities as part of the international campaign on '16 days of activism against gender-based violence against women and girls' from 25 November to 10 December 2022.



#BreakTheBias Hash Tag on social media during 16 Days Activism 2022



Online discussion titled 'Road to Equality' arranged by ASK

International Advocacy: Collaboration and Networking

International advocacy engaging UN Human Rights Mechanisms, and other global and regional human rights communities is another pertinent aspect of ASK's advocacy on human rights. Currently, ASK is serving as the secretariat of two networks, namely Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) and Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh (CRAC, B) who are actively engaged in UN advocacy, particularly on UPR mechanism and UNCRC to safeguard human rights of the people in general, and for the child rights.

Interventions within the scope of international advocacy take place both at national and international level to mobilize public opinion and influence the relevant state and international actors on the necessity of taking steps in improving human rights situation of the country. Main interventions of international advocacy are: organizing dialogues and consultations with the state and non-state actors, carrying out research, preparation of reports on human rights situation of the country and made submission to the relevant UN mechanisms, such as UPR, UNCRC and UNCEDAW, and capacity building of the stakeholders on UPR.

As mentioned, on behalf of the Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a coalition of 20 human rights and development organizations, ASK organized an online dialogue with the former chair of the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, Nasima Begum, NDC where the members of the HRFB raised their concerns regarding current human rights situation of the country and sought effective intervention from the NHRC.

HRFB in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinators' Office in Bangladesh also organized a workshop on UN human rights mechanism for the human rights activists working on diverse human rights issues in November 2022.

In 2022, ASK, as the Secretariat of the HRFB organized several consultations with relevant stakeholders as part of the development of the stakeholders' report, to be submitted in April 2023, under the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR), to be held in November 2023. ASK, as a member of the Citizens Initiative on CEDAW platform was also actively involved in the process of developing an alternative report for the CEDAW Committee.



As the Secretariat of the Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh (CRAC, B), ASK took several advocacy initiatives on the children's rights. The coalition organized a national consultation on the implementation of the recommendations on child rights under the UPR and UNCRC in May 2022 where the coalition shared the progress made so far on the implementation of the recommendations on child rights put forward under UPR and UNCRC, challenges and the recommendations to overcome the challenges. The coalition also organized an online national dialogue jointly with Samakal, titled, '*Progress in ensuring the rights of girls in Bangladesh and Impact of COVID-19*'.



National consultation on Implementation of Recommendations on Child Rights Under UPR and NCRC



Online dialogue on the rights of girls

Besides, two communications were sent to the UN Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression, custodial torture, disinformation, misuse of Digital Security Act, etc. in 2022.

ASK facilitated two research works on root causes of child marriage; and online child sexual abuse in 2022 with the support of Beyond Borders- ECPAT Canada. The findings were disseminated among relevant stakeholders where the High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh was present as the chief guest.



Consultation on research finding

Capacity Building of the Stakeholders on UPR to Monitor Progress of Implementation



Discussion on UPR arranged in different universities.

ASK implemented a small project (May to November) with the support of UPR-Info to increase awareness among national stakeholders and build their knowledge and capacities on the engagement with the process. In addition, the project also aimed to raise awareness about the implementation of the recommendations received in the third cycle of UPR. Under the project, ASK organized seven dialogues with law students of private and public university, which has enabled them to know about the UPR process, recommendations made during the third cycle and provided opportunities to them to assess the progress in the implementation from their end. ASK also arranged a national level consultation and 11 divisional consultations with the stakeholders on the progress under the UPR. It also developed a video documentation and a flyer on the UPR and Bangladesh.



Challenges and lessons learned

This section highlights the challenges and the learning that have been experienced by ASK in 2022. It highlights both external and internal challenges that hampered implementation of the activities effectively and in a timely manner.

Challenges

- Discriminatory provisions of law, e.g. discriminatory personal laws were a big challenge in ensuring justice for the aggrieved women. This is a continuing challenge, and unless and until personal laws are reformed in line with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, there will have limitations in providing just remedy to the distressed women and children.
- Lack of sensitivity of the service providers including judicial officers, police, and administrative officials about gender equality and women's rights was another challenging factor in ensuring proper service to the victims/survivors of violence against women.
- Reluctance of the victims/survivors in resorting to formal justice system was also a challenge. ASK experienced that in some serious cases involving violations of women's and human rights, victims/survivors are reluctant to seek justice because they fear further victimization at the hands of influential individuals. In addition, women victims frequently face social pressure and are ultimately persuaded not to seek legal assistance by their guardians.
- Non-cooperation from the peshkar, peon; court clerk, police, and their negative attitude towards human rights lawyers because of their propensity of taking money (bribe) from lawyers and parties was also an obstacle to facilitate access to services by the victims/survivors of human rights violations.
- Delay in getting NGOAB's approval and unavailability of fund was encountered during the reporting period that hampered the timely implementation of the planned activities.
- A high staff turnover rate, and lack of adequate fund were among other challenges encountered by ASK in 2022. In 2022, ASK continued its journey with a very low budget. However, ASK tried its level best to meet the expectations of the people with dedication and commitments using digital platforms and reaching more like-minded people.

Lessons Learned

- Despite both internal and external criticisms about the need for ASK's legal aid service, the necessity of legal aid services are clear with the growing number of legal assistance seekers. The common people, particularly the women who still do not have the information and capability to initiate legal prosecution desperately needs institutional legal assistance as provided by ASK. Moreover, there is the need to further extend ASK's legal aid services in more remote areas to the doorsteps of common people nationwide.

- To promote gender responsive legal proceedings, and to overcome further victimization and stigmatization of women during legal proceedings, sensitization/sharing meetings with the different justice service providing officials are very effective and is much needed.
- Counseling helps women substantially to stand strong, and economic independence and supportive social environment are very much essential for the [women] survivors of violence.
- Field experiences show that assistance and cooperation of local UP chair and members, ward commissioners/counselors are helpful to resolve the disputes. Thus, ASK tries to inform/involve the locally elected representatives so that they can influence the opponent to attend the mediation sessions organized by ASK and pay the dower money and maintenance, etc.
- Job oriented training facilities are required for the staff (lawyers, field workers etc.) for their better performance, which leads to better client satisfaction.
- There needs changes in the mind-set of the authorities to have their cooperation in implementation of the project. Working with alliance and in a collaborative manner is necessary to build safe spaces for women and girls in the society.
- Religious extremism is still a major issue in the society, and a threat to build a culture of human rights in the society. This necessitates more motivational and result-based programmes at the grassroots level to address religious extremism and intolerance.
- ASK needs to incorporate more initiatives to follow up on the implementation of the national and international human rights commitments. It should also develop a set of tools for assessing the implementation of the human rights commitments through different reports, assessment etc.

Annexes

- ASK Founding Members
- ASK General Members
- ASK Executive Committee Members
- ASK Team Members
- Audit Report

Founding Members

1. Barrister Amirul Islam
2. Dr. Hameeda Hossain
3. Late Advocate Abdul Khaleque
4. Late Barsister Salma Sobhan
5. Late Justice K.M. Subhan
6. Late Mr. Aminul Haq
7. Late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
8. Ms. Khursheed Erfan Ahmed
9. Ms. Taherunnessa Abdullah

Executive Committee Members

1. Z.I. Khan Panna, Chairperson
2. Ms. Fatema Rashid Hasan, Secretary General
3. Ms. Rokhsana Khondokar, Treasurer
4. Advocate Foyej Ahmed, Member
5. Adv. Roushan Jahan Parvin, Member
6. Sanjida Islam, Member
7. Mubrook Mohammed, Member
8. Helal Uddin Chowdhury, Member
9. Mr. Md. Nur Khan, Executive Director & Member

ASK General Members

1. Advocate Afsana Wahab
2. Advocate Karunamoy Chakma
3. Advocate Md. Asaduzzaman
4. Advocate Roushan Jahan Parvin
5. Advocate Syed Mahabubar Rahman
6. Advocate Z.I. Khan Panna
7. Barrister Nihad Kabir
8. Barrister Sara Hossain
9. Dr. Faustina Pereira
10. Dr. Meghna Guha Thakurta
11. Foyej Ahmed
12. Imtiaz Bin Harif
13. Imriaz Uddin Ahmad
14. Insiyah Ziauddin
15. Justice Nizamul Haq Nasim
16. Md. Ahsan Ullah
17. Md. Helal Uddin Chowdhury
18. Mr. Anisul Hassan
19. Mr. Issac Robinson
20. Mr. Md. Nur Khan
21. Mr. Zaved Hasan Mahmud
22. Ms. Dilruba Shahana
23. Ms. Farhana Islam Khan
24. Ms. Fatema Rashid Hasan
25. Ms. Nazia Kabir
26. Ms. Rokhsana Khondokar
27. Ms. Roushan Jahan
28. Ms. Shameem Aktar
29. Ms. Tahmina Rahman
30. Ms. Tanzina Huq Tiru
31. Mubrook Mohammed
32. Nadima Mohammadi Khan
33. Reazul Karim
34. Sanjida Islam
35. Shib Narayan Kairy
36. Zafar Sobhan

ASK Team Members

Executive Director

Golam Monowar Kamal (Till August 2022)
Md. Nur Khan (From August 2022 onwards)

Projects & Programmes

Programme Director
Advocate Nina Goswami

Core Project: Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh

Awareness Rising and Capacity Building

Md. Rokonuzzaman (Coordinator), Md. Moyenuddin (Theatre Activist), Shilpi Sharma (Sr. Theatre Activist)

Legal Aid and Other Support Services

Dilip Kumar Paul (Sr. Coordinator), Salma Ikram (Counsellor), Selina Akhter (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Asma Khanam Ruba (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Abdur Rashid (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Shirina Akhter (Counsellor cum Staff Lawyer), Kumari Mollika Rani (Staff Lawyer), Farjana Alim (Staff Lawyer), Md. Enamul Haq (Staff Lawyer), Shithi Rani Das (Paralegal cum MIS), Nasrin Akter, (Client Support Assistant), Morzina Akhter Beauty (Superintendent), Shamsunnahar (Field Worker), Mahamuda Khatun Maya (Field Worker), Maleka Begum (Aya cum Cleaner), Rokeya Begum (Cook)

Advocacy and Networking

Abu Ahmed Faijul Kabir (Sr. Coordinator), Shaheen Akhter (Sr. Editor), Tamanna Hoq Riti (Asst. Coordinator), Fahmida Zaman (Documentalist), Nargis Akter (Documentalist), Fatema Zannati (Documentalist), Jharna Khanam (Documentalist), Hasibur Rahman (Investigator), Faria Iffat Mim (Investigator), Shahinuzzaman (Staff Lawyer), Nurul Islam (Court Clerk- High court), Kaniz Khadija Shuravi (Publication Organizer), Maimuna Syed Ahmed (Ass. Coordinator), Md. Wasiul Alam Biswas (Web Developer), Md. Mostafa Kamal (Librarian), Ujma Mashiat (Program Organizer, MIA)

MAITREE: Promoting Women's Participation in peace building and social cohesion

Munira Sultana (Project Manager), Anwar Hossain (Sr. Program Officer), Abu Bakkar Siddik (Sr. Finance & Admin Officer), Md. Rashel Uddin (Project Officer, Logistic & Procurement), Mohammad Kaisar (Support Staff), Hasina Mamataj Lovely (Paralegal Lawyer), Sharmin Sultana (Field Organizer), Shanta Kar (Field Organizer), Farjana Mahaboba Tanjina (Volunteer), Salma Akter Kajal (Volunteer), Taslima Begum (Volunteer), Rahima Begum (Volunteer)

USAID's Youth are Resilient, Interconnected, Socially cohesive and Engaged (YouthRise) Activity

Uttam Kumar Sarker (Project Coordinator), Md. Mostajur Rashid (Program Organizer), Rozina Aktar (Program Organizer), Mohammad Fazlul Kader (Capacity Building Facilitator), Ripan Jyoti Chakma (Finance & Logistic Officer), Md. Masud Rana (Support Staff), Shahid Ullah Shahid (Field Worker), Prashantha Das Mongol (Field Worker), Md. Rafiq (Field Worker), Abdur Rahman (Field Worker), Shabnur (Field Worker), Md. Shahid Ullah (Field Worker), Mohammad Fazlul Kader (Capacity Building Facilitator), Ms. Rahima Begum (Program Organizer-MKL)

AGNEE: Awareness, Actions and Advocacy for Gender Equal and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls

Sabrina Mamataj (Project Coordinator), Mohammad Asadujjaman (District Manager), Md. Hasibul Hasan Pallab (District Manager), Joshua Tushar Haque (M&E Officer), Pyamelia Saha (Finance & Admin Officer), Rajib Hasan (Data Analyst), Md. Sabbir Islam (Data Analyst)

Providing Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Women

Shilpi Saha (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Md. Mizanur Rahman (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Md. Arif Hossain (Staff Lawyer), Tapon Kumar Sarker (Court Clerk)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Finance & Administration

Maniruzzaman (Director - Finance & Admin), Istiak Ahamed (Manager), Tamanna Nasrin (Assistant Manager), Shamim Hossain (Unit Assistant), Mahmuda Sultana (Sr. Manager -Admin & Human Resource), Md. Rakibul Hasan (Sr. Admin Assistant), Parul Akter (Sr Admin Assistant), Anil Chandra Mandai (ITAssistant), Md. Mohsin Ali (Computer Operator), Md. Nur-e- Alam (Store Keeper), Mintu Barua (Receptionist), Md. Haider Ali (Main Assistant), Md. Abu Musa (Unit Assistant), Laila Begum (Office Assistant), Morium Begum (Office Assistant), Anjali Barai (Cleaner), Abul Kalam Azad (Driver)

Monitoring, Knowledge and Learning (MKL)

S.S. Bakht Hindole (Manager-MKL)

Internal Audit

Prosen Kumar Saha (Manager- Internal Audit)

Auditor's Report
on
Consolidated Financial Statements
of
Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Submitted by
Howladar Yunus & Co.
Chartered Accountants

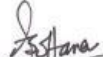
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Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2021

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Providing Assistance to Victims of Torture and Their Families	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Y - Moves	ASTHA	Promoting and Protection the rights of working children Through Providing Education, Health, Skill, Legal and Social Protection Action	MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace building and social	PPOCSE	Building Back Better in times of Covid 19 fighting sexual exploitation of children on the rise	General Fund	Year 2021	Year 2020
Assets													
Non-current Assets		1,694,388	-	-	518,985	317,461	147,023	1,135,893	34,610	-	77,902,937	81,951,298	80,438,117
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	1,694,388	-	-	518,985	317,461	147,023	1,135,893	34,610	-	34,563,047	38,611,408	39,619,066
FDR Investment	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,339,890	43,339,890	40,819,051
Current Assets		23,558,545	1,850,902	421,805	5,000	-	-	11,342,098	868	1,142,169	4,531,949	42,853,837	11,498,296
Advance & Security Deposit	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	738,477	-	-	583,323	1,321,800	1,443,149
Fund Receivable from Donor	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	485	-	-	485	460,015
Loan/Advance/AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	286,020	20,380	306,200	-
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6	23,558,545	1,850,902	421,805	5,000	-	-	10,603,621	383	856,149	3,928,446	41,225,352	9,595,131
Total Assets		25,452,934	1,850,902	421,805	523,985	317,461	147,023	12,478,491	35,479	1,142,169	82,434,886	124,805,135	91,936,413
Equity & Liabilities		25,279,622	1,837,789	307,032	518,985	317,461	147,023	12,478,328	34,610	1,125,945	82,193,774	124,240,568	89,439,034
Capital Fund	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82,193,774	82,193,774	87,519,734
Due to donor	21	23,385,234	1,837,789	307,032	-	-	-	11,342,435	-	1,125,945	-	37,998,434	-
Fixed asset fund	-	1,894,388	-	-	518,985	317,461	147,023	1,135,893	34,610	-	-	4,048,360	1,919,300
Current Liabilities		173,312	13,113	114,773	5,000	-	-	163	869	16,224	241,113	544,567	2,497,379
Provision/Vat & Tax payable	8	173,312	-	73,000	-	-	-	163	-	15,824	91,188	353,467	2,363,866
Loan	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	-
Security Money (RBM Software Develop)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	149,925	949,925	299,250
Interest fund account	22	-	13,113	41,773	-	-	-	-	869	400	-	56,155	33,664
Total Fund & Liabilities		25,452,934	1,850,902	421,805	523,985	317,461	147,023	12,478,491	35,479	1,142,169	82,434,886	124,805,135	91,936,413

The annexed notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements


Maniruzzaman
Director - Finance & Administration
Ain o Salish Kendra


Farhana Sultan
Partner

Howladar Yunus & Co.
Chartered Accountants
D/C No: 2209181619 AS 677584
Dated: 18 SEP 2022


Md. Nur Khan
Executive Director
Ain o Salish Kendra

Ain o Salih Kendra (ASK)
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 31 December 2021

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Providing Assistance to Victims of Torture and Their Families	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Y - Moves	ASTHA	Promoting and Protection the rights of working children Trough Providing Education, Health, Skill, Legal and Social Protection Action	MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace building and social cohesion	PPOCSE	Building Back Better in times of Covid 19 fighting sexual exploitation of children on the rise	General Fund	2021	2020
Income													
Foreign Grants	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	595,677	-	595,677	135,777,068
Grants Income	21.1	60,999,284	1,100,161	2,060,884	14,470,990	40,643,499	2,066,823	13,143,324	658,654	2,034,648	-	137,048,567	-
Donations	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164,810
Training Fees	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	198,317	198,317	37,359
Consultancy received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,100	1,100	4,900
Membership Subscription	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,837,600	2,837,600	3,632,911
FDR Interest	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,618	74,618	60,666
Bank Interest	13	-	13,113	8,109	52,384	-	2,300	-	869	400	-	79,734	71,898
Other Income	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,960	17,960	-
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Discount admin cost from projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income		60,999,284	1,113,574	2,068,993	14,523,374	40,643,499	2,069,123	13,143,324	659,523	2,035,048	5,540,191	142,735,932	141,868,498
Expenditure													
Salaries & Allowances	15	29,584,254	315,406	752,092	1,650,066	7,270,260	1,150,323	4,367,818	80,000	1,211,795	687,172	47,894,986	72,863,340
Seminars/Workshops/Meetings	-	5,763,255	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,763,255	5,444,456
Office Rent	16	4,326,672	123,000	162,460	-	1,003,198	-	334,116	-	101,640	1,728,736	7,710,472	7,394,973
Travelling & Transportation	-	1,692,279	-	16,060	50,263	-	8,705	516,583	1,010	124,985	22,871	2,350,756	3,690,481
Utilities	17	-	-	7,200	-	59,799	3,900	20,268	-	-	-	91,367	167,637
Communication	-	-	-	12,488	21,256	132,731	-	69,850	600	-	-	236,935	667,840
Audit Fees	18	-	-	69,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	144,238	233,238	10,900
Publication Cost	-	2,441,070	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,668,490	3,060,304
Medical Support for Staff/Medical Expenses	-	494,504	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	494,504	495,431
Education Support for Working Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,275	51,275	94,713
Tax Payment	-	-	1,311	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268,797	269,508	1,009,677
Training Expenses/Staff Training & Development	-	170,609	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,609	1,007,275
Legal Aid/Legal Expenses	-	-	4,440	4,040	9,327	34,931	3,125	-	485	-	89,018	145,366	124,188
Printing & Stationeries	19	10,140,877	-	7,393	22,964	135,327	1,270	137,440	-	-	-	10,140,877	9,309,250
Entertainment/Refreshment	-	-	-	1,889	-	43,663	-	-	1,924	-	-	304,194	434,899
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	20,400	-	97,622	-	98,955	2,697	75,242	423,078	717,374	348,602
Hire of security services	-	758,963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	758,963	982,368



Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Providing Assistance to Victims of Torture and Their Families	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Y - Moves	ASTHA	Promoting and Protection the rights of working children through Providing Education, Health, Skills, Legal and Social Protection Action	MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace building and social cohesion	PPOCSE	Building Back Better in times of Covid 19 fighting sexual exploitation of children on the rise	General Fund	2021	2020
Advertisement/Advertising and Publicity		103,666	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103,666	145,623
Awareness/Motivational/Sensitization		622,192	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,581,184	3,694,664
Postage/Courier/Parcel		433,530	-	959,062	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	433,530	407,009
Est. & Operation of WHD/WFS		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,310,133
Support Cost of P/P		-	-	-	-	1,531,077	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,421,422
Research/Study Expenses		691,890	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	691,890	796,767
Fund transfer to Project Account		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	560,889
Tax deducted at source		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	204,868	-	204,868	-
Membership Subscription Payments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	284,387	-	284,387	-
Books and Periodicals		314,695	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	314,695	268,036
Consultancy Payment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Health Insurance Coverage		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,451	-	52,451	23,100
Payments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Security payment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loss on sale of assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation		492,295	-	-	164,093	102,064	40,567	422,187	11,199	-	531,305	1,763,710	1,319,087
Program Cost		-	656,304	-	12,016,500	29,348,638	884,283	6,767,062	560,878	520,986	379,129	5,009,800	15,870,684
Programme Support Cost		-	-	-	537,522	483,519	-	420,016	-	-	-	1,444,016	811,806
Others Payments/ Expenses	20	2,995,603	-	-	-	-	1,850	-	-	-	3,818	3,001,731	2,406,590
Office General Expenses/ Asset Insurance Coverage		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460	-	-	-	897,663
Total Expenditure		60,919,284	1,100,461	2,068,884	14,170,990	40,643,499	2,066,823	13,143,324	658,654	2,034,648	5,047,810	14,214,377	144,529,051
Net Surplus/Deficit Transferred to Capital Fund/ Interest Fund		-	13,113	8,109	52,384	-	2,300	-	859	400	512,281	589,556	(2,660,553)
Total		60,919,284	1,113,574	2,068,993	14,523,374	40,643,499	2,069,123	13,143,324	659,513	2,035,048	5,560,191	14,703,932	141,868,498

The annexed notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements


Maniruzzaman
 Director - Finance & Administration
 Ain o Salish Kendra


Farhana Sultana FCA
 Partner

Hawladar Yunus & Co.
 Chartered Accountants
 DVC No: 2209181619A5677584
 Dated: 18 SEP 2022


Md. Nur Khan
 Executive Director
 Ain o Salish Kendra

Ain o Gulab Kendra (AGK)
Receipts & Payments Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2021

Particulars	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Providing Assistance to Victims of Torture and Their Families	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Y - Moves	ASTHA	Promoting and Protection the rights of working children Through Providing Education, Health, Skill, Legal and Social Protection Action	MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace building and social cohesion	PPOCSE	Building Back Better in times of Covid 19 fighting sexual exploitation of children on the rise	General Fund	2021	2020
Opening Balance	1,107,119	-	7,828	357,671	668,288	546,855	1,082,446	303,295	132,593	5,389,035	9,595,130	10,457,518
Cash in Hand	26,509	-	-	-	1,080	-	-	-	-	4,894	33,083	23,659
Cash at Bank	1,080,510	-	7,828	356,671	668,288	546,855	1,082,446	303,295	132,593	5,384,141	9,562,047	10,433,859
FDR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program advance (Opening)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	569,683
A/C Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	517,883
												52,500
Receipts	85,986,329	2,951,363	2,629,317	15,262,822	40,322,874	1,583,646	23,173,748	344,542	3,028,400	5,540,191	180,843,231	177,709,638
Foreign Grants	84,486,329	2,938,250	2,621,208	15,205,438	40,322,874.0	1,581,245	23,173,748	343,673	3,028,000	5,555,677	174,296,543	175,448,840
ASK Contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	104,810
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,269
Training Fees/Training Venue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,900
Membership Subscription	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.0	1,000	36,149,368
Enrollment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,632,911
FDR Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,666
Bank Interest	-	13,703.4	8,109	52,384	-	2,300	-	869	408	2,837,600	2,837,600	1,835
Registration Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,790.0	1,790	60,666
Sale of Publication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,661.0	60,661	66,241
Loan from ASK	1,500,000	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,505,000	-
Consultancy received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	198,317	198,317	-
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,960	17,960	-
Reimbursement/ Expenses Refunded /	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Received from Project Unspent Amount	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Advance/ Office Rent & Security Adjusted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Security Money (RBM Software Develop)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Realized from ASK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,293	27,293	3,422
Receipt admin cost from projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,816,185	1,816,185	2,118,886
Total Fund Available	87,092,447	2,951,363	2,637,145	15,270,493	40,991,162	2,130,501	24,256,194	647,837	3,160,993	10,949,226	190,438,361	196,736,839
Payments	467,383	-	-	42,777	-	-	246,200	-	-	-	756,340	2,958,176
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets	467,383	-	-	42,777	-	-	246,200	-	-	-	756,340	2,958,176
Camera and Accessories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fixture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equipments	467,383	-	-	42,777	-	-	246,200	-	-	-	288,977	736,131
											467,383	2,222,045



Particulars	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Providing Assistance to Victims of Torture and Their Families	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Y - Moves	ASTHA	Promoting and Protection the rights of working children Trough Providing Education, Health, Skill, Legal and Social Protection Action	MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace building and social cohesion	POCSE	Building Back Better in times of Covid 19 fighting sexual exploitation of children on the rise	General Fund	2021	2020
	63,067,520	1,100,461	2,215,340	10,572,716	40,991,162	2,130,501	13,405,873	647,454	2,304,844	7,020,779	148,456,649	184,183,533
Salaries & Allowances	29,584,254	375,402	752,092	1,650,066	7,270,260	1,056,123	4,307,818	60,000	1,75,971	687,192	47,049,162	72,821,241
Office Rent	4,326,572	323,000	832,460	-	1,003,848	-	379,316	-	10,640	1,528,732	7,615,408	6,701,169
Travelling & Transportation	1,612,279	-	75,060	58,263	-	8,706	5,558,3	1,010	124,985	22,871	2,350,756	4,747,872
Seminars/Workshops/Meetings	5,763,255	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,763,255	5,469,575
Utilities	-	-	7,200	-	59,799	3,900	20,268	-	-	-	236,505	138,713
Communication	-	-	12,488	21,256	132,791	-	69,860	600	-	-	91,367	691,366
Printing & Stationeries	-	-	7,193	22,954	130,327	1,270	137,440	-	-	-	304,394	434,899
Repair & Maintenance	-	-	20,400	-	97,622	-	98,955	2,097	75,242	423,078	707,394	344,602
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	485	-	89,079	145,366	124,588
Legal Aid/Legal Expenses	10,740,877	4,440	4,040	9,326	34,931	3,125	-	-	-	-	10,740,877	9,309,250
Audit Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,050	35,000
Publication Cost	2,474,070	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	184,420	2,658,490	2,477,880
Medical Support for Staff/Medical Expenses	494,504	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	494,504	495,401
Education Support for Working Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94,713
Training Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	407,894
Advertisement/Advertising and Publicity	103,666	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,275	51,275	-
Hire of security services	758,963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103,666	45,623
Program /Office Rent (Advance & Security)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	758,963	982,308
Postage/Courier/Parcel	433,630	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax Payment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training/OT/Refreshes expenses	170,609	1,311	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	433,530	407,005
Newspaper & Periodicals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	258,197	259,508	1,009,677
Entertainment/Refreshment	-	-	1,889	-	43,663	-	-	-	-	-	170,609	-
Consultancy Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Training & Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,924	-	2,845	50,321	78,098
Books and Periodicals	374,695	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,451	52,451	23,100
Teaching Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	599,381
Membership Subscription Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	374,695	268,036
Staff Health Insurance Coverage Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Security Payment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audio Video Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan refund to ASK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan Payment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office General Expenses/ Asset Insurance	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coverage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	1,505,000	-
Fund transfer to Project Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	602,063
Tax deducted at source	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	204,868	204,868
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	284,286	284,286



Particulars	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Providing Assistance to Victims of Torture and Their Families	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Y - Moves	ASTHA	Promoting and Protection the rights of working children through Providing Education, Health, Skill, Legal and Social Protection Action	MAITREE: Promoting women's participation in peace building and social cohesion	PPOCSE	Building Back Better in times of Covid 19 fighting sexual exploitation of children on the rise	General Fund	2021	2020
Investment												
Others Payments/ Expenses:												
Awareness/Motivational/Sensitization	622,922	-	965,262	-	-	1,850	-	400	-	2,520,839	2,520,839	36,819,061
Est. & Operation of WHD/WFS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,818	6,128	2,479,066
Support Cost of IF/JP	-	-	-	-	1,931,077	-	-	-	-	-	1,577,184	3,468,090
Research/Survey Expenses:	518,578	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,931,077	2,310,133
Refund to donor	-	-	-	1,394,019	449,727	304,245	-	-	-	-	518,578	3,429,422
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	568,317
Other expenses/Program cost	2,477,500	656,304	-	11,942,300	29,748,638	851,283	7,406,818	561,878	807,006	394,310	54,445,095	15,842,958
Programme Support cost	-	-	-	522,522	483,539	-	430,016	-	-	-	1,428,076	511,806
Withholding Vat & Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Advance, Deposits & Prepayments adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provision Paid/Adjustment	1,831,866	-	227,456	-	-	-	-	-	-	149,925	149,925	809,747
Total Payments	63,534,903	1,100,461	2,215,340	15,615,493	30,991,162	2,130,501	13,652,073	647,454	2,304,844	7,020,779	149,213,009	187,741,709
Closing Balance	23,558,546	1,850,902	421,805	5,000	-	-	10,604,121	383	856,149	3,928,446	41,225,352	9,595,130
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank	23,558,546	1,850,902	421,805	5,000	-	-	2,172	383	856,149	3,928,446	41,225,352	9,595,130
FDR	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,601,948	-	-	-	27,143	33,081
	17,093,448	2,951,363	2,637,145	15,620,493	30,991,162	2,130,501	24,256,194	647,837	3,160,993	10,949,226	190,438,361	196,736,839

The annexed notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements

Maniruzzaman
Maniruzzaman
Director - Finance & Administration
Am o Solah Kendra

Farhana Sultana
Farhana Sultana
Partner
Hawladar Yunus & Co.
Chartered Accountants

DVC No: 2209181619A6677584
Dated: 18 SEP 2022

Md. Nur Khan
Md. Nur Khan
Executive Director
Am o Solah Kendra

Gallery

